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The book is well printed, and contains several excellent illustrations.

Wraxall's Abridgment of the New York Indian Records, 1678-1751.

Edited with an Introduction by Charles H. McIlwain, Ph.D.,
Assistant Professor of History in Harvard University. Harvard
Historical Studies. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1916.
Pp. cxviii + 251.

In this volume of the Harvard Historical Studies, Prof. McIlwain has edited Peter Wraxall's "Abridgment of the Indian Records in the Colony of New York from 1678 to 1751." Wraxall was Indian Secretary for the Province of New York, and his abridgment was compiled to oppose the Albany plan for control of Indian affairs by a board of Colonial representatives. It contributed to the defeat of the Albany scheme and resulted in the appointment by the Lords of Trade in 1755 of Sir William Johnson sole superintendent of Indian affairs in the colonies. Wraxall became Johnson's secretary and rendered him valuable assistance in that office.

The early rivalry between England and France in America was not prompted by the desire for territory, the motive generally ascribed by both contemporary and modern historians, but was induced by the desire for Indian fur trade. It was the commercial treaties between the Five Nations and the Dutch and later between them and the English on the Hudson that prevented the realization of French colonization schemes; the success of which doubtless would have completely changed the political aspect of America. The French could not compete with the cheaply manufactured goods of the English traders and it was this, rather than the kindness of the English, which contributed to the French losses in America. The author says: "During the whole history of the English fur trade, the evidence indicates that most of these traders were the very scum of the earth, and their treatment of the Indians was such as hardly to be suitable for description." We recommend this quotation to English chroniclers of Spanish cruelty in America.

The importance of the study of these early Indian records is found in their significant effect upon the extension of French and English influence in the north and around the Great Lakes, a study which has not always received its merited attention. The

editor prefaces the original text with an instructive introduction supplemented profusely by citations principally from original sources. The Abridgment itself is amplified by explanatory notes.

Union Portraits. By Gamaliel Bradford. Pp. 330. Illustrated. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Co.

In this volume Mr. Bradford continues his series of biographical studies with "portraits" of nine Union leaders of Civil War times. Lee, the American, as well as Confederate Portraits are familiar works by the same author. He has selected as representative men of the North, Generals McClellan, Hooker, Meade, Thomas, and Sherman, and Secretaries Stanton and Seward, and Charles Sumner and Samuel Bowles. We look in vain for Sheridan. The biographies of Hooker and McClellan are substantially those first published in the *Atlantic Monthly*. Mr. Bradford finds his materials in the writings of the men themselves and in those of their contemporaries to which he makes frequent reference. His appreciation of the characters and achievements of the northern generals, still the subject of controversy, are impartial and fair. It is not necessary to state that the author knows the Civil War period and its literature.

The "portrait" of the brilliant organizer but unsuccessful soldier, Gen. McClellan, is a composite of his many admirable qualities and excessive self-confidence. McClellan's supporters—and they are many—are never so enthusiastic as the General himself, and their praise is frequently "in the nature of an apology and lacks entirely the trumpet tone with which the General proclaims his own feats of arms." There is abundant testimony of the high regard and loving devotion of the Army of the Potomac for their leader. Although McClellan had ability, he lacked enterprise, and had he been a subordinate under men of the stamp of Grant, Sheridan or Thomas his campaigns would doubtless have been more successful. Mr. Bradford is just in saying: "He was a man of real power given too great an opportunity. As an able soldier, true patriot, and loyal gentleman, he did what he could."

"Fighting Joe" Hooker, so-named, as the author tells us, not by his troops but in pure accident by a newspaper compositor,